**Removal of Locational Restriction**

5203. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Assam has proposed to remove the locational restriction so as to enable the industrial units of NER located outside the notified growth centres to avail the fiscal benefits like central excise, income-tax, capital investment subsidy and interest subsidy as per the new industrial policy for the NE; and

(b) if so, the justification therefor and reaction of Government on the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) and (b) An extract of the speech of Chief Minister of Assam dated 21-22 Jan. 2000 made during the conference of Chief Ministers and Governors, requesting for improvement in North East Industrial Policy has been received from Ministry of Home Affairs on 11.5.2000. New Industrial Policy for the North East notified on 24.12.1997 covers most of the major industries relevant to North East Region and extends financial concessions to them irrespective of their location.

**Tobacco Crop Holiday in Karnataka**

5204. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka is reluctant to the proposal of tobacco crop holiday for 2000-2001 in the State;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the tobacco crop size allowed for cultivation to the Karnataka; and

(d) its impact on unsold crop lying for last one year with traders?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Yes. Sir.

(b) The successful marketing of the Karnataka tobacco crop has negated the demand for a crop holiday in Karnataka.

(c) FCV tobacco crop size fixed for 2000-2001 Karnataka season is 225 M.Kgs.

(d) Changing international demand situation renders it premature to make an accurate impact assessment.

**Export Performance of MMTC**

5205. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reviewed the export performan«e of the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation (MMTC);

(b) if so, the details of the metals, minerals and other items exported by MMTC during last three years (year FCV wise);

(c) the quantity of these items exported and revenue earned thereby;

(d) whether there has been a sharp decline in the export of some minerals;

(e) if so, the details thereof: and

(0 the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) the details of the metals, minerals and other items exported by MMTC during last three years (year- wise) and the revenue earned is as follows:

(Value in Rs. Crores)

(Quantity in Lakh Tonnes)

| Items | 1997-98 Actuals | | 1998-99 Actuals | | 1999-2000 (Prov.) | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Quantity | Value | Quantity | Valu | Quantity | Value |
| Minerals and Ores | 120.4 | 980 | 106.9 | 946 | 123.4 | 1036 |
| Agro Products | 0.75 | 75 | 0.47 | 31 | 0.06 | 3 |
| Industrial Products\ Engineering Products | * | 47 | * | 0.5 | * | 1 |
| Diamonds, Gems and Jewellery | * | 42 | * | 20 | * | 142 |
| Others(General Trading) | * | 43 | * | 43 | * | 26 |
| TOTAL Exports | 121.15 | 1187 | 107.37 | 1041 | 123.46 | 1208 |

*Export data is not being maintained in quantity terms since the number of items is too large and diverse and unit of measurement is different for different items.